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Summary record of the 3079th meeting
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Tuesday, 15 July 2014, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Sir Nigel Rodley

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 40 of the Covenant (*continued*)

Fourth periodic report of Ireland (continued) (CCPR/C/IRL/4; CCPR/C/IRL/Q/4 and Add.1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chairperson, the delegation of Ireland took places at the Committee table.*

2. **Ms. Jackson** (Ireland) said that two independent reviews had been carried out on symphysiotomy, the first focusing on the historical facts, including information from hospitals and consultation with women affected and their families, and the second, conducted by a judge, involving a review of the legal issues. Symphysiotomy had been an exceptional intervention in Irish obstetrics, performed in less than 0.05 per cent of deliveries between 1940 and 1985. Some 1,500 women had been affected, of whom 350 were alive today. The main reason for performing symphysiotomy had been to achieve the predominant goal of vaginal delivery and avoid Caesarean section in the case of minor to moderate obstruction. At the time, there had been concerns about the rise in the number of Caesarean deliveries and the risks associated with multiple Caesarean sections. According to statistics from the 1960s, the maternal mortality rate had been lower with symphysiotomy than with Caesarean delivery.

3. The Government had decided to establish an ex gratia scheme, under which the State did not recognize any liability or legal obligation, as it would be extremely difficult to determine the State's liability in law in relation to each symphysiotomy. Implementation of the scheme would cost approximately 34 million euro. The compensation received by the women would be less than court awards to reflect the non-adversarial nature of the scheme. Most importantly, women would be spared the stress and potential cost of having to pursue High Court cases, bearing in mind that a number of them had poor access to their records because of the time delay and many were now aged between 75 and 91. The Government felt that the scheme was fair and responded well to the needs of the women affected.

4. **Ms. Fitzgerald** (Ireland) said the Government acknowledged that the symphysiotomy issue was extremely distressing for the women involved and profoundly regretted the very serious and damaging effects, including medical and psychological problems, the practice had had on them and their families. The Government was hopeful that the announcement of the redress scheme would help give the women closure. By today's standards of care, symphysiotomy would certainly not be indicated, but maternal care and obstetrics had been in a transitional phase in Ireland at that time and there had been a lack of oversight. The practice had not been carried out secretly. In the case of symphysiotomies carried out after the baby had already been delivered by Caesarean section, the Government strongly supported the Supreme Court position that the procedure was indefensible and wrong. The details of the redress scheme would be finalized over the coming weeks, and the Government was open to hearing the views of the various groups representing the women affected on how best to operate it.

5. **Mr. O'Briain** (Ireland), referring to the reservation under article 10, paragraph 2, of the Covenant, said that the Government did not have any objection in principle to lifting the reservation but must first ensure that it was in a position to guarantee the separation of prisoners in practice. A substantial programme of work was nearing completion to bring the poor stock of prison accommodation that had been inherited up to standard, and a new prison in Cork was due to be opened by the end of the year.

6. With regard to the reservation to article 20, paragraph 1, the difficulty in the past had been drafting a clear offence that would meet international standards. The Government

would reconsider the formulation of an offence during the 2014 review of its compliance with the European Union Framework Decision on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law.

7. **Mr. Hickey** (Ireland) said that 18 persons had been convicted by the Special Criminal Court in 2012 for offences such as membership of an illegal organization, possession of firearms and murder.

8. **Mr. O'Briain** (Ireland) said that the Government fully subscribed to the principle of strong engagement between national human rights institutions and national parliaments. The bill establishing the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission provided that the new institution should have a direct reporting relationship with Parliament, but as Parliament made its own internal rules through standing orders, it was its prerogative how to deal with those reports. It was hoped that the committee responsible for the rules and procedures of Parliament would provide for a commitment to engage with the Commission.

9. **Ms. Fitzgerald** (Ireland) said that it was normal practice for a body such as the Commission to discuss its reports with the parliamentary Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality Justice, and the Government expected such engagement to continue in the coming years.

10. **Mr. Vardzelashvili** asked the delegation to provide further information on the work of the task force established to prepare for a referendum on the amendment of article 41.2 of the Constitution on the role of women.

11. In relation to question 13 of the list of issues, he asked whether the new prison was intended to replace the existing facility in Cork and how many low-risk prisoners were to be released under the Unlocking Community Alternatives strategy. He asked the delegation to comment on the fact that the vast majority of prisoners were serving sentences for minor offences punishable by terms of up to 1 year. He enquired what was being done to address and prevent inter-prisoner violence, and what statutory time limits applied to pretrial detention. Was the estimate by the Inspector of Prisons that the practice of "slopping out" would be abolished in all prisons by mid-2016 realistic and when would the separation of different categories of prisoners be guaranteed in all facilities?

12. In relation to question 16, he noted that one of the two exceptions to the requirement under the Criminal Justice Act that questioning of a detainee must not start until they had had access to legal advice was the existence of compelling circumstances. He asked the delegation to comment on how compelling circumstances had been defined in case law and on the recent ruling by the Supreme Court that statements made by a suspect following his request for a solicitor but before that solicitor had arrived were inadmissible.

13. With regard to question 27, he asked whether the Government had given a formal response to the recommendation by the Constitutional Convention that the constitutional offence of blasphemy should be removed.

14. **Ms. Chanet** said that the State party's consistent position in relation to the Magdalene laundries was not entirely satisfactory in terms of implementation of the Covenant. As to the difficulties in defining the offence of hate speech, she suggested that the State party might base itself on the practice of other European countries. On the issue of corporal punishment, she noted with surprise that only mothers had been surveyed in the research on discipline strategies. Given that the State party had been recommended by various human rights bodies to legislate on corporal punishment, she wondered whether it intended to do so.

15. **Mr. Shany** said the fact that Ireland was a dualist State and that international treaties were thus not part of domestic law unless incorporated by Parliament did not justify not giving the new Human Rights and Equality Commission a mandate to monitor compliance

with the Covenant and other international treaties. The exclusion of the Covenant from the mandate of the Commission limited the ability of the State to provide effective remedies for certain violations of the Covenant through that channel. As to the country's dualist nature precluding the Commission from investigating violations of non-incorporated human rights, he appreciated that non-incorporation might limit the possibility of providing legal redress, but it should not prevent the Commission from fully functioning in ways that involved non-remedial powers.

16. Referring to question 12 on abortion, he expressed serious concern at the claim that the free will of the Irish electorate could, by virtue of article 25 of the Covenant, allow the Irish State to violate other provisions of the Covenant, including non-derogable provisions such as articles 6 and 7. That argument was, in his view, completely unacceptable and struck at the very core of human rights law as a safeguard against the tyranny of the majority. He called on the delegation to consider withdrawing that statement. Regarding symphysiotomy, while he appreciated the strong condemnation of the practice, he expressed concern that women must waive judicial remedies as a precondition for entering the scheme before the level of compensation had been determined, at the lack of judicial review of the outcome of the scheme, and at the lack of assessment within the scheme of individual hardships and injuries suffered.

17. On question 18, he asked whether the new information brought into the public domain by WikiLeaks, which included further evidence of Ireland's involvement in rendition flights, had been duly investigated and, if so, requested details. On the issue of religious oaths, he commended the State party for its willingness to take measures to implement the Committee's recommendation, but expressed concern at the slowness of its action. He asked the delegation to provide clarification on the issue and whether any anticipated changes would also include other senior office holders, such as the President and the Attorney General.

18. With regard to non-denominational schools, he again expressed concern at the pace of change. The number of non-denominational schools was still minuscule, and most new schools were in fact multi-denominational rather than non-denominational. He asked the delegation to explain what would be the fate of the children of non-Christian and atheist families in areas in which it had been deemed that there was insufficient demand and in non-surveyed rural areas. Was it true that the children of non-Christian or atheist families could be discriminated against in admission to denominational schools? How was the State party planning to deal with the possibility of demand for non-denominational education in the future? The Committee would welcome a copy of the new Employment Equality Bill and invited the delegation to address concerns that, although it would protect certain groups such as LGBT teachers, it would not prohibit discrimination on the basis of religious conviction and thus would not protect the rights of non-Christian teachers.

19. **Mr. Rodríguez-Rescia**, referring to question 11 of the list of issues, said that article 28.3 of the Constitution should define in greater detail the prerequisites for declaring a state of emergency and suspending fundamental rights, in accordance with article 4 of the Covenant. He asked the delegation to comment in detail on that issue.

20. With regard to question 19, he asked the delegation to clarify what was understood by the term "voluntary patient" in the light of the concerns expressed by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment that many so-called "voluntary" patients were in reality deprived of their liberty and housed in closed units. Good practices should be established to ensure the treatment of voluntary patients in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He asked what the significant reduction in the number of voluntary admissions was attributable to. Was a policy of deinsitutionalization being implemented? He invited the delegation to comment on the reasons for that increase in the use of physical restraint

and why so few facilities were fully compliant with the code of practice on physical restraint. Why were advance directives for psychiatric care not being used and why was the administration of electroconvulsive therapy against a patient's will not prohibited under the Mental Health Act?

21. He asked what measures had been adopted to recognize Travellers as an ethnic minority and to support their nomadic or semi-nomadic way of life. There had already been calls by several committees and the universal periodic review process for the State party to recognize Travellers as a minority group. The higher rates of infant mortality and suicide among the Traveller community indicated the need for a public policy that set out differentiated and affirmative action. Both the Traveller and the Roma communities faced stigmatization and inadequate access to public services. The lack of political participation of members of the Roma community was of particular concern. Had the State party implemented a plan, in accordance with the recommendation by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, to improve the political participation of minority groups? And what policies were in place at local, regional and national levels in that regard?

22. **Mr. Iwasawa** emphasized that arguments to justify deviation from human rights under the Covenant by invoking article 25 were unacceptable. Given that Ireland was the only European Union member not to have a single application procedure for asylum cases, he welcomed the Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill and asked whether it was expected to be enacted in 2014. What was the status of the plan to establish an independent appeals process to review immigration-related decisions? Direct provision centres were unsuitable for long stays as they impeded family life, were not in the best interests of children, contributed to isolation and prevented integration. What measures were being taken to respond to the Committee's recommendation to consider an alternative system that provided adequate living conditions? Since asylum seekers did not fall under the remit of the Office of the Ombudsman, what was the State party doing to establish an independent complaints or monitoring mechanism for persons living in direct provision centres?

23. While welcoming the introduction of the Gender Recognition Bill, he regretted its delayed enactment because the lack of a birth certificate, for which a gender identity was required, prevented access to social services. He asked how the State party would (a) redress the excessive requirements, including parental consent, court orders and doctors' validation, for persons aged 16 or 17 who wished to apply for gender recognition, (b) rectify the preclusion for transgendered persons in an existing marriage or partnership from accessing gender recognition, (c) break down discriminatory attitudes against transgender persons, and (d) ensure prosecution of crimes committed against them. To what extent was the acquired gender of transgendered persons taken into account when assigning them to a detention facility?

24. **Mr. Flinterman** expressed concern at legislation on abortion. He asked whether the Irish people had ever been given the opportunity to vote on relevant provisions in the Constitution to render them less restrictive. Given that recent opinion polls showed that, while a majority of the population supported abortion in certain urgent cases, the majority were not in favour of abortion as a matter of choice, how much importance did the State party attach to opinion polls? The replies to the list of issues disregarded the situation of women, the myriad conditions which led to abortion, and article 7 of the Covenant. He asked how provisions subjecting women who sought abortion because of health risks or rape to 14 years' imprisonment, or authorizing women to seek legal abortion abroad could be interpreted as fair and in conformity with the Covenant.

25. **The Chairperson** asked whether the State party acknowledged the social discrimination against women inherent in the provision permitting them to seek abortion abroad. He asked whether it was true that the women involved in the historical

symphysiotomy cases had not been consulted and had not given consent, and whether it was generally accepted that those cases had been part of an experimental process.

The meeting was suspended at 11.25 a.m. and resumed at 11.50 a.m.

26. **Ms. Fitzgerald** (Ireland) said that recent data had shown a decrease in the prison population in the State party. In-cell sanitation had been installed in all cells in Mountjoy prison and refurbishment was under way. Construction work had commenced on Cork prison, in accordance with international standards, and remained to be done on Limerick and Portlaoise prisons. It was expected that all projects would be completed within their scheduled time frames.

27. The figures on prisoners contained in the report included 540 prisoners on remand. Efforts were being made to ensure segregation within the prison system. Cloverhill prison was a dedicated remand prison. Practical difficulties in ensuring segregation sometimes arose, particularly where remand prisoners asked to stay near their hometowns. A budget of 50 million euro had been allocated to the construction of a centre for young offenders. All 16-year-old offenders had been segregated and 17-year-olds had been moved to a separate part of an adult facility. It was expected that by the end of 2014 there would be complete segregation of young offenders and adult prisoners.

28. **Mr. Barrett** (Ireland) said that a Supreme Court decision had recently been taken on the right to access to counsel before and during police interrogation and the right of a detainee not to be questioned before he or she had access to legal advice. Those rights supplemented existing statutory rights of arrested suspects to be informed of their rights. A recent report by the Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission had set out recommendations on the way in which the obligations of the officer in charge at the time of an arrest should be expanded. Discussions had been held on the development of protocols concerning interaction between the police, lawyers and suspects. It was not yet clear whether those protocols would require statutory backing.

29. **Ms. Fitzgerald** (Ireland) said that a robust framework had been set up to respond to the historical cases of child abuse, which included strengthening legislation and improving children's services to ensure a speedier and more coordinated response to child abuse concerns. The reform of children's services had also involved the establishment of the Child and Family Agency in January 2014. The possibility of banning corporal punishment was under discussion. The Children Act nevertheless provided clear legal deterrents against assaults on children in any setting and offenders had been prosecuted under that Act. A suite of legislation covering the reporting of abuse had also been drawn up. Various measures to assist parents and families were in place, such as the Family Support Agency, which provided services to improve the functioning of family units and was heavily utilized. A research paper by the Economic and Social Research Institute had revealed a shift in attitudes and a fall in the numbers of primary caregivers resorting to smacking as a discipline strategy.

30. **Mr. White** (Ireland) said that the use of the State party's territory or airspace for the purpose of extraordinary rendition, torture or unauthorized detention was prohibited. The new information brought into the public domain regarding allegations of the use of Irish airports for such practices did not bring new evidence to light. Following investigations into such complaints, all allegations had been disproved.

31. **Ms. Jackson** (Ireland) said that the current review of the Mental Health Act would address the definition of voluntary detention or voluntary patients. The review would also recommend amending legislation on electroconvulsive therapy to prohibit its administration to patients capable of giving consent but unwilling to do so, and to provide greater protection for patients for whom that treatment was being considered. Admissions of voluntary patients notified to the Mental Health Commission had increased to 567 in 2012.

32. **Mr. O'Sullivan** (Ireland) said that the scale of the Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill had contributed to the delay in its enactment. The future Act would include the establishment of an independent appeals procedure. In addition, a separate protection bill concerning a single application procedure for asylum seekers was being designed to ensure efficient implementation of that procedure. Reforms of the immigration procedures were continuing in the interests of efficiency and transparency.

33. **Mr. Dowling** (Ireland) said that the revised House Rules and Procedures contained the complaints mechanism for asylum seeker residents and staff in direct provision centres. The procedure was based on the obligations placed on the Reception and Integration Agency, management and residents, and included an appeals process. Reviews of the House Rules and Procedures were carried out by a group composed of, inter alia, an independent chairperson, NGOs, and representatives of the police and the health sector. While the Office of the Ombudsman currently did not have the power to investigate asylum-related matters, administrative arrangements in place with the Reception and Integration Agency and the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service empowered it to provide assistance in such cases. Asylum seekers had access to mental health services on an equal footing with Irish nationals. In addition, the law entitled resident asylum seekers to English-language tuition and guaranteed children of such asylum seekers education in local schools and up to university level.

34. As for the right to family life, asylum seekers obviously wished to live in a community and have the right to work and housing, but it was not financially practicable for the Irish State to meet those wishes. All the alternatives had been considered and no solution had been found that would not entail excessive costs. Asylum seekers had their basic needs provided for, including housing, heating, lighting, food, health care and education, so their financial situation was similar to that of other low-income families.

35. **Mr. O'Briain** (Ireland) said that the reason why legislation on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons was taking so long to be finalized was that a consultation process had been conducted concerning amendments relating to persons aged 16 or 17. That process had identified improvements, such as greater involvement of the children's parents and the medical profession. As to segregation in custody, the matter was a priority for the authorities, even if failures sometimes occurred. An NGO, the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network, had a good working relationship with the police, who tried to ensure that LGBT persons felt safe reporting assaults or other offences against them.

36. In asking about the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, Mr. Shany had given the impression that he would wish to see the incorporation of the Covenant into Irish law by means other than legislation. The Irish Supreme Court did not, however, allow Parliament unlawfully to delegate its powers to ministers or anyone else. It would be unconstitutional, therefore, to give the Commission the power to behave as if the Covenant had been incorporated. Nor could the Commission make the law or initiate enforcement action in cases of the violation of international human rights standards. Once it was involved in a particular court case or inquiry, however, there was no restriction on the advice it could give.

37. With regard to the freedom of religion and the judicial oath, he could add little to the delegation's written replies. A constitutional referendum would be needed to amend the current rule. The Government had approved the consideration of an amendment to the Constitution to permit a secular declaration for a person appointed to the judiciary, but he could not say when action would be taken.

38. **Ms. de Cogan Chin** (Ireland) said that, in accordance with section 6 (a) of the Education Act 1998, the Government aimed to provide a diverse system catering for children of all religions. In 2013, seven new multidenominational primary schools had been opened and four more would be opened in 2014. In areas of stable population, where there was evidence of a demand for different types of patronage, existing schools could be

stripped of their patronage and made multidenominational. Out of 43 areas where requests of that nature had been made, such a course of action had been approved in 28. Agreement had been reached with Roman Catholic patrons on the opening of three new multidenominational schools in September 2014. Discussions with the existing patrons had been positive and more schools would be opened. Under article 44 of the Constitution, parents could withdraw their children from religious education and schools could put in place alternative arrangements. With regard to school admissions, she said that the Education (Admissions to Schools) Bill aimed to make the process fair and transparent.

39. **Ms. Fitzgerald** (Ireland) said, with reference to article 27 of the Covenant, that the Government was considering a referendum on article 40.6.1 (i) of the Constitution. Parliament was currently considering the recommendation of the Convention on the Constitution. It had already repealed the Defamation Act 1961.

40. In relation to question 12 of the list of issues, the Government recognized that, as pointed out by **Mr. Shany**, **Mr. Iwasawa** and **Mr. Flinterman**, the majority will could not derogate from the country's human rights obligations. With regard to Mr. Flinterman's question, the previous referendum, conducted in 2002, had been more restricted in scope, dealing only with the question of removing the threat of suicide as grounds for abortion. Another referendum would be required before broader provisions could be introduced. The Protection of Life During Pregnancy Act 2013 finally provided clarity for both the medical profession and women. It had been the result of wide and informed discussion, and many civil society groups had contributed. Opinion polls indicated that views were changing on some aspects of the question. There existed a number of agencies that provided information for women experiencing a crisis pregnancy. The number of teenage crisis pregnancies had diminished greatly in recent years, as had the number of women travelling abroad for abortions.

41. **Ms. Jackson** said that the reason why women at risk of suicide were examined by three doctors was that assessment was difficult. The law did not specify that the three doctors must carry out the assessment together or in the same location. Women in such a situation must be given truthful and objective information in a counselling environment and be informed of the options available, whether to keep the baby, give it up for adoption or terminate the pregnancy. The website of the Health Service Executive gave a list of agencies that provided help. As to the fact that women with resources could travel abroad while those without resources could not, that was an intractable fact. The Covenant underpinned the debate and decision-making in the Department of Health.

42. **Mr. Hickey** (Ireland), referring to the question whether Travellers should be recognized as an ethnic minority, said that his delegation was aware that the former Minister of Justice had committed the Government to considering the issue in 2011 and a conference had been held to discuss its every aspect. The implications had been discussed with other Government departments and the law officers, and a joint committee of the Oireachtas had issued a report, which the Minister would take into consideration in reaching her decision. Meanwhile, Travellers had the same rights as other Irish citizens. The Government recognized that Travellers needed protection and they were therefore named in all the country's anti-discrimination legislation, but, ultimately, recognizing them as a minority would give them no more rights than they currently enjoyed. The Roma, on the other hand, were mostly European Union nationals who had come freely to Ireland, so were not registered or counted separately. Their estimated numbers were 3,000 to 5,000. A need had been identified to provide them with support and advocacy services, and the State itself needed to learn how to deal with the Roma and other minority communities. With regard to the question from Mr. Vardzelashvili, he confirmed that the Government was considering language to replace the current wording of article 41.2 of the Constitution; the task force on the matter would report by October 2014 and a referendum would be held as soon as possible.

43. **Ms. Fitzgerald** (Ireland) said, with regard to the question of symphysiotomy, that the procedure had generally — although not always — been carried out without the knowledge or consent of the women concerned. It should, however, be put in a historical context since, in the past, it had been considered a life-saving procedure. It had also been used for emergency labours. The precise details of the redress scheme were still under discussion, but the investigative process should not be intrusive or cause additional stress to the women concerned.

44. **Mr. Shany**, after thanking the delegation for its unequivocal reply concerning article 25 of the Covenant, asked it to explain how it was compatible with the Covenant to allow schools with a near-monopoly to discriminate openly against children on the basis of their parents' religious convictions. Did the State party consider itself obliged to provide a neutral environment at school, outside religious instruction classes?

45. **Mr. Vardzelashvili** asked whether the State party would consider reviewing the mechanism for complaints in prisons relating to inter-prisoner or other violence or ill-treatment, and extending category A complaints to cover category B complaints concerning such issues as discrimination, verbal abuse or inappropriate search.

46. **Mr. Zlătescu** said that the exposure of Travellers and the Roma to marginalization and racism in Ireland had been exacerbated by the closure of the National Consultative Committee on Racism and Interculturalism in 2008. He asked whether the Government had plans to reinstate the Committee.

47. **Ms. Fitzgerald** (Ireland) said that her Government took its engagement with the Human Rights Committee very seriously. The Government had a reform agenda and progress had been made in many areas. It was helpful to gain an international perspective, particularly for women in Ireland. She paid tribute to NGOs, which played an important part in influencing public opinion. With regard to the last three questions, the Government would respond to the first in writing. Consideration would be given to extending the category A complaints procedure to category B complaints. As to the question about Travellers and the Roma, the Government was conscious of the inequalities they faced, but it wished to be sure that the best possible mechanism was put in place. An interdepartmental group had been established and meetings held with NGOs to find a way to focus more closely on their difficulties.

48. **The Chairperson** said that the dialogue with the delegation had indeed been constructive. He recognized that human rights were very much a part of the discourse and history of Ireland. There had been positive developments in a number of areas, one example being the assisted decision-making for persons with mental disabilities. He also noted the improvements to the Special Criminal Court, even if some members of the Committee questioned the need for its continued existence. At least there had been an end to the practice whereby the prosecution determined which court an individual was tried in, without the possibility of challenge. There had also been improvements in prison stock, where conditions had formerly been close to inhuman.

49. Many social issues remained, however, such as the Magdalene laundries, the mother-and-baby homes, child abuse and symphysiotomy, which he could hardly imagine any State party tolerating over the many years that they had existed. All the issues were connected with the belief system that had long predominated in the State party. The previous day, the Committee had heard a statement from an NGO which had shown breathtaking arrogance in its certainty as to the meaning of the right to life and he welcomed the greater openness of the delegation. The primary right to life was surely that of the woman concerned. The situation had been clarified with the adoption of the Protection of Life During Pregnancy Act 2013, but it was a pity that the Act did not cover the right to health of women or eliminate the risk of criminal penalties for abortion, even in the case of rape, where a woman had no responsibility for the child she bore. He hoped that, by the time of the next periodic report, consultations would have been held with a

consequent constitutional change, bringing the law into line with the Covenant. The law should also be brought into line with article 7 of the Covenant, which specified that no one should be subjected without their consent to medical or scientific experimentation. He expressed concern that, although the Government was prepared to make a material response to abuses, none of the statements from the delegation had acknowledged the State's accountability for its own actions or its failure to monitor the actions of others in committing abuses that might well be characterized as crimes.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.